

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-9, 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4007841 to Seipel. The Office Action stated that in Seipel "There is a plurality of claims (34', 35') for releasably securing the base to the surface, the clamps having a hook formation adapted to pass through an aperture in the surface of a machine and hook beneath the surface to rigidly fix the stand to the surface." "The hook formation is tensionable by an over center locking lever (37)..."
Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The only independent Claim, Claim 4, defines, in part, an equipment support stand comprising a base adapted to stand on a surface of a machine; an upstanding rack mounted to the base; and securing means for releasably securing the base to the surface;

the securing means comprising a plurality of clamps which incorporate a hook formation adapted to pass through an aperture in the surface of the machine and hook beneath the surface to thereby rigidly fix the support stand to the surface. Seipel, whether considered alone or in combination with any other references of record, fails to teach or suggest a support stand with a plurality of clamps incorporating a hook formation adapted to pass through an aperture in the surface of the machine and hook beneath the surface to thereby rigidly fix the support stand to the surface. More specifically, Seipel states as follows:

"A modified
 clamping
 arrangement and
 formation for the
 distal end of the
 foot 14 is shown
 in FIGS. 4 and 5
 The clamping
 action is provided
 by a clamping
 member 34' which
 is drawn upwardly
 against the
 underside of two
 of the wire rods
 18 by means of a
 J-bolt 35' the
 lower end of which
 is threaded and
 provided with a
 nut 36' and the
 upper portion of
 which is in the
 form of a down-
 turned hook 37
 which fits down in

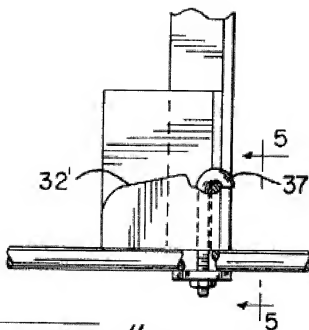


FIG. 4-

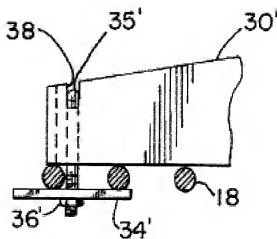


FIG. 5-

a slot 38 in the upper edge of the main section 30' over which it
 hooks as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5." (Column 3, lines 12-26).

Seipel does not teach or suggest clamps which incorporate a
 hook formation adapted to pass through an aperture in the surface

of the machine. The upside down J-bolt 35' does not include at its lower end a hook formation adapted to pass through an aperture. To the contrary, the lower end of the J-bolt 35' is straight, and after passing through an aperture, has a plate like structure 34' having a hole therein, placed on the end of the J-bolt 35', which is then in turn held on the J-bolt 35' by a nut 36'. There is no other teaching or suggestion for another way to fasten the clamp 34' on the J-bolt 35'.

Applicant's claimed invention permits attachment to the machine surface without the need to have access to the underside of the machine surface. In Seipel, access to the surface underside is required to place the clamp or plate 34' on the J-bolt 35'. Further, as defined in dependent Claim 13, Seipel does not include a clamp with an center locking lever connected thereto which, when tensioned, will tightly clamp the stand to the surface. Seipel merely has a J-bolt with a down-turned hook 37 that hooks over a section of the stand. No center locking lever is provided.

For the above reasons, the allowance and passage to issue of Claim 4, and Claims 5-9, 11 and 13 that depend there from, are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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